Back to School Night

Please join us from 6:00-7:30 PM on September 7th for our Back to School Night event. This is an adult only event. The primary purpose of the evening is to meet the teachers and learn about the curriculum and classroom procedures. There will also be opportunities to sign up for Extended Day Enrichment classes (deadlines extended), receive support from the Technology Specialist in accessing classroom sites on RenWeb, and get involved with the Ricks Community Association (RCA). We hope to see you then!

### Back to School Night Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:00-6:15</td>
<td>Meet the administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ricks Community Association (RCA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:15-6:45</td>
<td>Session 1 in classrooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:45-7:15</td>
<td>Session 2 in classrooms (session 2 will be a repeat of session 1 for parents who need to attend multiple sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:20-7:30</td>
<td>Stop by the following areas as you wish:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Who</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Connections teachers (art, music, PE, world language)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Primary Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Innovation Specialist for RenWeb support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Innovation Space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ricks Community Association (RCA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Main hallway booth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Extended Day / Enrichment Program Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Main hallway booth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hurricane Harvey Relief

Our hearts go out to those in need who have been impacted by hurricane Harvey. We know there are many options for donating supplies, money, or otherwise and we encourage our families to give in any way they are able. The student council in Middle School is exploring ways Ricks can contribute. While we know aide is needed immediately, it will also be necessary in the long term. We plan to research ways our community can make a meaningful contribution.

Ricks T-Shirts

We have another unique opportunity to help Ricks and the American Red Cross. You will be helping the Shannon B. Jones Grant as well as victims of the flooding in Texas!!

Buy a Ricks Logo T-shirt, designed by Angelina Akdis, and through the generous help of local businesses, for each T-shirt sold between September 1st-September 8th, **$25/T-shirt** will be donated to the American Red Cross.

In order to help the Harvey victims, pre-order sales have been extended one more week, through September 8th, to enable us to raise as much as we can to send relief to those who most need it!!
Parent Education Workshops
We will be offering several workshops adjacent to the RCA meetings over the course of the school year. Half of the workshops / RCA meetings will take place in the evening, the other half in the morning after student drop off. To gauge interest and plan accordingly, please fill out this one-minute survey and indicate if these workshop topics are of interest to you (raising a gifted child, executive functioning development, social-emotional traits of gifted children, digital citizenship, anxiety in children, perfectionism in children, supporting your twice exceptional child). You are also welcome to make other suggestions at the bottom of the survey.

AdvancEd Accreditation
Over the course of the 2016-17 school year, the Ricks community engaged in the reaccreditation process with the AdvancEd global network, comprised of the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI), the Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC), and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI). We are thrilled to announce that in measures across all of the AdvancEd standards of practice, Ricks scored higher than the network average. We have been awarded a 5-year accreditation term. Congratulations, Ricks!

Crimson Classic – 2:00 Dismissal for all Students
Due to road closures and anticipated traffic issues, Ricks will close at 2:00 pm on September 20. Extended Day care will be available at the normal after school rate.

Registration is now open for the Crimson Classic! Parents, you can sign your kids up as DU students and yourselves as “friends and family” for free. We hope to see many of you there.

ParentsWeb
Have you signed up for ParentsWeb? ParentsWeb will give you access to your student’s information, make sure that you get all communication from the school, and is where you may update family information. We are including instructions as an attachment to this email to help you set up your ParentsWeb account. If you have questions, please call the front desk at 303-871-2982.

School Year Forms
As it applies to your child, please return the signed statement of health forms and most recent vaccination records. For Early Childhood students, please fill out and return the attached sunscreen permission form if you have not already done so. Please contact the front desk if you are unsure of which forms still need to be completed for your child.

Enrichment Program
We have opportunities for after-school enrichment for students from EC through 8th grade, and deadlines have been extended to September 6th.

Compete in Future Problem Solving! Play chess! Develop a Community Problem Solving Project! Learn coding or Spanish or art! The Enrichment Catalog is now available. Please click here to view the catalog, or stop by our booth at Back to School night to sign up.

We have added a Thursday morning violin class from 7:30 am to 8:20 am especially for our students in 5th - 8th grade. Please email Kersti McGee at kerstimcgee@gmail.com for additional information.
**Extended Day Program**

We understand there have been several changes to the extended day program. We would like to highlight some of the changes:

1. There is **NO** registration fee for extended day. You are welcome to use the morning or after school program as often as you need to for a daily fee.
2. We will be sending a bill through RenWeb every month. For parents already using Extended Day, you will see your first bill in October.
3. We will be providing Extended Day camps on half days and full days at Ricks when school is not in session. These will require preregistration so we can staff appropriately.
4. Our goal is to provide quality programming while allowing students voice and choice.
5. Preregistering for extended day morning and after school care does not commit you financially but allows us to plan appropriately. You will be billed only for days you actually use.
6. Parents, please remember to pack a snack for after school. We do not have extra snack to give students.

We are taking registration for Sept. 4th – 15th. We have added an option for parents who anticipate needing extended day for the entire year. If you check this box, you will not be required to fill out the registration forms unless you have schedule changes. Please click [here](#) to register.

Please visit the booth at Back School Night! Maggie Wright will be on hand to answer questions, listen to suggestions, and help with enrichment sign up.

**A Note from our Student Council**

Hello Ricks Families!!! This year’s Student Government will start by hitting the ground running. We are beginning the year with hopes to improve the Ricks Center community through school-wide events, unlike previous years where the student government was more of a middle school organization. We will be reaching out to the EC and primary students for more of the events! This year we will be hosting more school wide events such as bake sales, spirit week, charitable events, etc. We look forward to working with the Ricks community to help better our school. If you have any suggestions or ideas for Student Council projects, please contact us at [matthewjabrams6@gmail.com](mailto:matthewjabrams6@gmail.com), [htj5565@gmail.com](mailto:htj5565@gmail.com), or [carlyconferina@gmail.com](mailto:carlyconferina@gmail.com).

This year's student council members are Henry J., Carly C., Caroline E., Angelina A., Matthew A., Callie B., Theo M., Chase H., Bex B., Logan Y., Tessa M., and Elan S.

**Girls on the Run- Calling all 2nd-6th Grade Girls**

We only need 3 more girls to sign up so we can field our GotR team! The deadline for registration has been extended to September 8th.

Stretch yourself – physically, mentally, socially and emotionally. Girls will be inspired to a lifetime of self-respect and a healthy lifestyle through an innovative program that combines training for a 3.1 mile run/walk race with a fun, health education lesson plan. This program promotes individual achievement and self-confidence. Girls gain self-esteem and learn healthy lifestyle habits while training for a 5K run/walk race.

For registrations please follow steps.

2. Click on “Registration Open”.
3. Find and select your school name in the dropdown box.
4. Complete the registration.
5. Check your email for a registration confirmation email.
Morning Drop Off – Wednesday Late Start Reminders

- Every Wednesday morning is a late start; classes begin at 9:00am.
- Middle School students may enter the building at 8:45am and proceed to lockers.
- The Primary playground will open at 8:45am for primary students only. Due to equipment standards and safety regulations, we are unable to have EC students on the Primary playground.
- Parents / guardians may supervise their child's play on the early childhood playground until school begins. The EC playground is only open to Preschool, PreK, and Kindergarten students. At 8:55am, you are welcome to proceed to classrooms to sign children in. EC drop off window on Wednesday is 8:55-9:15am.

This Week in the Classrooms

EC

What a great week of school it has been for our early childhood program! Preschool and prekindergarten met their Connections teachers (art, music, PE, and Spanish) starting on Monday. Students in the early childhood classrooms are learning routines and classroom rules as well as getting to know their teachers and classmates. Over the next few weeks, the classrooms will continue to work on community building and learning more about each other. Many new friendships are forming and there is lots of joy and learning happening in the classrooms.

Kindergarten

Kindergarteners introduced themselves by singing during the assembly. They are developing a great community!
1st / 2nd
First and second graders have been working on math, reading, and writing all week, providing samples of work so their teachers can meet them at appropriate yet challenging levels.

3rd / 4th
It has been a week of writing and reading and community building for 3 / 4. We have been talking about what makes us joyful, and at our school assembly today we shared what brings us happiness.

Middle School
Our middle school classes are in full swing, with baseline assessments going on in math and language arts and discussions around class engagement and participation. This great start of the year promises a wonderful fall.

Early Childhood Update
Half day preschool and prekindergarten
Children who are in the half day program have the option of staying for lunch. Lunch is served between 11:50 am and 12:15 pm. Children in the half day program are to be picked up between 11:45 am and 12:15 pm (unless it is a half day for the entire school, in which case pick up for all EC children is 12:00 noon).
Wholesome Food Services

Ricks Center is pleased to offer Wholesome Food Service for the 2017-2018 school year. Wholesome Food Service will provide lunches Monday through Thursday starting the first full week of school. The service offers convenient online ordering. The link is provided on Ren Web.

Lunch/Pizza/Milk is offered for all Kindergarten-8th grade levels. It is not available for Preschool or PreK students.

Wholesome Food Services began as a grassroots effort of parents and nutrition experts in Colorado to offer a unique school lunch program providing great lunch options for students and staff. Their mission is to provide real, fresh food choices for students and staff. We offer the highest quality food choices and provide delicious, healthy options that kids love at reasonable prices.

**Wholesome Food Services Advantages:**

- A large variety of delicious, healthy lunches delivered fresh to your school.
- Complete ingredient lists available – confidence in the highest quality foods.
- Choose from a wide range of lunch choices daily with over 150 selections weekly.
- Flexible ordering – orders can be placed just a week at a time, or up to two months ahead.
- Online Ordering with secure credit card processing provides a turn-key convenience parents.

Pizza will be offered on Fridays starting September 1st. There is a separate Fall Pizza order form on RenWeb. In the fall, Pizza Hut will be the pizza vendor. The three choices are one topping cheese, pepperoni, or sausage.

Gluten Free Pizza
If you are interested in Gluten Free pizza, please contact the front desk. Ricks.frontdesk@du.edu

Creative Recycling Center

The creative recycling center has a new home in the Innovation Lab! There is a shelf in the lab where specific recycling materials are being collected for students to use their creativity to create, build, and construct treasure out of trash. We are building these shelves from scratch, so the more materials you have to donate, the better! Feel free to drop the following washed and cleaned items off by the Innovation Lab:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wood scraps</th>
<th>Tissue boxes</th>
<th>Tin cans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Egg cartons</td>
<td>Fabric and felt</td>
<td>Metal hangers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottle caps</td>
<td>Magazines</td>
<td>Plastic soda bottles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper towel and toilet paper rolls</td>
<td>Washed plastic containers (yogurt, cheese, etc.)</td>
<td>Small corrugated cardboard boxes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parent Handbook

The Ricks Parent Handbook is available online and on our website. This has been updated for the 2017-18 academic year and is available for your reference.
A Note from Jake Hill at the Front Desk

Hey everyone! Thank you so incredibly much for the amazing past 10 months that I have worked here. I really have enjoyed each of your personalities and interests as I have gotten to know you. I wish that I could keep working at Ricks, but a great opportunity came up and I have to take it. I was offered a full-time job at the Chanda Center for Health in Lakewood. They specialize in providing acupuncture, massage, and chiropractic therapy for people with Spinal Cord Injuries. I have been going there every week for the past year and a half.

I also am signed up to go back to school! I have gotten a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice, but since I cannot be a police officer any more, I am going to get another degree, but this time in Cyber Security.

Thank you all so very much for your friendship and most of all patience with me at the front desk.

RCA Happenings...

Scrip Program Update - Teachers have received $526.00/classroom from the Shop with Scrip and King Soopers Scrip classroom fundraising programs. Thank you for your participation! To find out more info and/or participate in the program, please contact communicationsrca@gmail.com. We will also have info at back to school night!

September Meeting

- Our next RCA Meeting on September 15th will serve as our Room Parent Coordinator Kick-off.
- We ask all Room Parent Coordinators (thank you again for volunteering) to plan to attend. All other parents or guardians are welcome. We start with an update from Admin, then jump right into our primary and secondary topics for the meeting.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- We are still in need of TWO Room Parent Coordinators this year. If you are interested in being a Room Parent Coordinator for 1st/2nd Gold and PS Maddie/Holly, please contact Ted Brooks - edward.brooks@du.edu.
- Help with our school library! If you are interested in either one-time or an ongoing scheduled opportunity, please contact our Parent Library Coordinator, Carrie Watts – carrie@fivewatts.com or Anne Wolf anne.wolf@du.edu.
- We will hold a Scholastic Book Fair during Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences, November 7 – 10. If you are interested in helping, please reach out Stephanie Peacock – peacockbrd@yahoo.com.
- Help plan Ricks’ Gala! Please contact RCA communicationsrca@gmail.com or Anita Chhabra anitadmehtha@gmail.com. We’d love help with sponsorships, auction items and general event planning!

Contact the RCA with questions, inquiries and interest! Thank you!

- Email: communicationsrca@gmail.com

Facebook

Have you "liked" our Facebook page? Please take a moment to visit, and "like," the Facebook page. It's another great way to see what is going on in the school and in the Ricks Center Community.
## Save the Date

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 6</td>
<td>Grade 8 Parent Information Night Spring 2018 about the Washington Trip. 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm MS Commons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 7</td>
<td>Back to School Night, 6:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 8</td>
<td>School Assembly: The grade 8 Spanish class will be performing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| September 15 | RCA Meeting/Room Parent Coordinator Kick-off | September 15, 2017 | 8:45am  
|              | • Ricks Night at Women’s Volleyball | September 15, 2017 | 6pm  
| September 20 | Crimson Classic, 2:00 PM dismissal, extended care available           |
| November 4   | Gala                                                                  |